

The back of the shell is very like that of the ordinary shell but the patterning is in distinct bands with large patches of white or near white.

The shell of the albino is much thinner than that of the usual *amphora* with the natural result that it is much lighter in weight.

This shell can attain a length of 15½ in. and a breadth of 10½ in.

I have great pleasure in naming the new shell *Melo amphora*, sub-species *knighti*, after Mr. Knight who first found it and who has helped so many collectors, not only in securing specimens of shells for their collections, but also to widen their knowledge of ecology by sharing with them his intelligent observations.

Ericusa sowerbyi porcellana, subsp. nov.

In August of last year (1952) I obtained a number of *Ericusa sowerbyi* (Kiener) from a trawler operating in the vicinity of Gabo Island.

To my surprise, one of these proved also to be an albino.

I have had a great number of *Ericusa sowerbyi* myself and have seen very many more belonging to other people but this was the first "white" one.

The animal was not different from that of the usual type.

The shell itself was of the short rounded Tasmanian kind, rather than the elongated N.S.W. form called by Iredale *Ericusa sowerbyi perspecta*.

Again, the most striking characteristic is the interior of the shell which is of porcellanous white, as also is the columella.

The a binism extends to a considerable portion of the body whorl underneath.

Like *Livonia mamilla leucostoma* Mayblom, this shell has a striking apex. While it is not of the same dazzling whiteness as the interior, yet it is so markedly light in colour as to strike the eye immediately.

There is no lightness in weight. In fact, rather the reverse is the case, as its lip is somewhat thickened. However, this may be due to other reasons, such as a slight injury to the young shell. Or again, it may be due to the age of the shell, which is fully adult and may be approaching senility.

I think an appropriate name for this shell is *Ericusa sowerbyi*, sub-species *porcellana*.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the invaluable help I received from Mr. Charles F. Knight and Miss Gertrude Thornley who drew the plate for this article and helped me with her advice.

New Shells for New South Wales

BY LEE WOOLACOTT

(Plate III)

Superfamily MURICACEA

Family THAIDIDAE

Genus RHOMBOTHAIS, gen. nov.

Genotype, *Rhombothais arbutum*, sp. nov.

Shell small, body whorl large, inflated and proportionally about two-thirds of total height, and well angled at the periphery. Columella smooth with a small longitudinal umbilical pit and a narrow, coarsely-scaled flange curving to base. Sculpture of numerous small, spiral ribs bearing small, irregular and flattened scales. The interstices are moderately deep and narrower than the ribs. There are several medium-sized nodules on the periphery of each whorl. A smooth, sub-

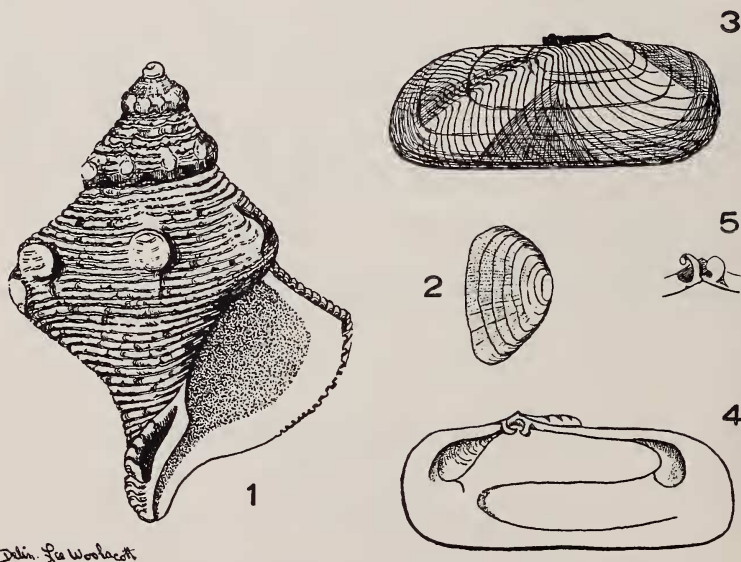
globose protoconch of one and a half whorls. Operculum horny, sub-ovate, with a lateral nucleus and of a golden-brown colour. Short, half-open, reflected canal.

The shell here described cannot be confused with Schumacher's genus, *Rapana*, which is a large, three to five inch shell, with a very low spire and a large, flared, lamellose flange at the base of the columella. It differs too widely from Swainson's *Latiaxis* (e.g. *Latiaxis marcae*, Grey) to need comparison here. Further, as the shell under consideration is not a coral dweller, but lives in and among algae on a rocky shore between tides, it is obvious that it cannot belong to the genus *Coralliophila* of H. and A. Adams which contains coral-living moluscs whose form shows adaptation to their particular environment.

Rhombothais arbutum, sp. nov. Figs. 1-2.

Shell small, 15mm. x 11mm., the body whorl being two-thirds of height. The shell consists of four whorls and a smooth, sub-globose protoconch of one and a half whorls. Sculpture of numerous close-set spiral ribs with narrow, moderately deep interstices, the ribs bearing somewhat obsolete scales which are more lamellose in some juvenile specimens. The periphery of each whorl is markedly angled and bears about seven medium-sized nodules. Columella smooth, with a small umbilical chink and a narrow, poorly laminated flange curving to base. Mouth medium, subovate. Outer lip simple, crenulated by the ribs.

Plate III



Delin. L. Woolacott

Explanation of Plate III

- 1-2. *Rhombothais arbutum*, gen. et sp. nov.
1. Adult shell x 4.
2. Operculum x 4.
- 3-5. *Solecurtus leone*, sp. nov.
3. Exterior view of right valve. Natural size.
4. Interior view of right valve. Natural size.
5. Hinge teeth of right valve, tilted x 2

L. Woolacott del.

Very short, half-open canal slightly reflected. Colour is from yellow to deep apricot-pink.

Location. Angourie, about three and a half miles south of the Clarence River Heads, N.S.W., November, 1942. Type now in the Australian Museum.

The shells were found living in crevices and on rock surfaces, under thick algae, and on lifting the fronds carefully, as one does strawberry leaves to find the fruit, these dainty, pink shells were discovered; hence the specific name, *arbutum*, the wild strawberry.

Superfamily SOLENACEA

Family GARIIDAE

Genus *Solecortus* Blainville, 1824.

Solecortus leone, sp. nov. Figs. 3-5.

Shell medium size, 44mm. x 18mm., inequilateral, equivalve, both ends gaping. Sculpture of about thirty oblique, diverging flattened ridges, and strong accremental striae which divide the shell into numerous uneven growth stages externally, and showing as faintly-rounded ridges internally. Each valve has a triangular medial depression externally which is strengthened internally by two radiating processes of slightly thickened shell. External ligament of very dark brown, attached to a slight shelly projection of the dorsal margin. In the right valve are two curved cardinal teeth, the posterior one being flattened (partly broken in type specimen), and in the left valve, one cardinal and one short lateral tooth. Umbones approximate, somewhat flat and sharp. Periostracum slightly wrinkled and of a dull, straw colour. The shell is white with faint yellow in the umbonal region.

Location. From off Brush Island, fifteen miles south of Ulladulla, N.S.W.; 40-45 fathoms. They have also been taken at Eden and Port Stephens. Type in the Australian Museum.

At a line drawn from the umbones to a little above the junction of the posterior and ventral margins, the oblique ridges diverge, and those which curve towards the anterior end fall short, leaving a smooth, triangular area. It shows close affinity with the fossil shell, *Solecortus legrandi*, Ten. Woods, from Table Bay, Tasmania (probably Miocene), but differs in that it has one end smooth, *legrandi* being smooth both anteriorly and posteriorly; in being slightly larger, and having the oblique ridges continuous, and not disconnected by the accremental striae as in *legrandi*. The northern shell, *Solecortus deshayesii* Dunker, is also a white shell of similar facies, but averages twenty-six ribs on a larger shell, and the point of divergence of the ridges is quite different, being pushed up very near the dorsal margin.

The new species is named in honour of Mrs. Leone Harford, honorary secretary of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales.

In conclusion, I wish to express my gratitude to Miss Elizabeth Pope, without whose untiring assistance and encouragement this article would never have been attempted, to Mr. T. Iredale who assisted in ways too varied to enumerate, to Miss G. Thornley and to Mrs. R. Kerslake.

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